

Message Text

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FOL RPT LONDON 11355 SENT ACTION SECSTATE GENEVA ROME JUL
18, 1978

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 11355

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, FAO, UK
SUBJECT: FAO BUDGET 1980/1981

REF: (A) STATE 160600; (B) ROME 10262

1. J.M. SCOLAR, FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT,
MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (ODM), SAID THAT U.S.
REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING OF THE GENEVA GROUP IN
ROME MISUNDERSTOOD THE UK POSITION AS SET OUT PRESUMABLY
BY UK REPRESENTATIVE PECKHAM. HMG HAS AGREED AS A
GOVERNMENT THAT ITS AID POSITION AS A WHOLE SHOULD IN-
CREASE BY SIX PERCENT IN REAL TERMS PER ANNUM. THIS IS
A POLITICAL COMMITMENT UNDERTAKEN BY MINISTERS. HOWEVER,
THIS APPLIES TO THE GLOBAL AID FIGURE AND NOT TO ANY
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PARTICULAR CATEGORY OF AID. IN FACT, ODM IS LOOKING AT
A MAXIMUM OF TWO PERCENT OF REAL GROWTH IN THE FAO FIGURE
AND SCOLAR BELIEVES THIS TO HAVE BEEN STATED AT THE
ROME CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER. THE UK IS NOT PREPARED TO
MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT AT THIS EARLY DATE AND SUCH A
COMMITMENT FOR THE 1980/1981 FISCAL YEAR WILL HAVE TO
WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

2. SCOLAR NOTED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN A GROWTH RATE OF THE ORDER OF SIX PERCENT IN GLOBAL AID WITH ODM'S PRESENT CONCENTRATION ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT, SINCE IT IS HARD TO FIND AND IMPLEMENT SUITABLE PROJECTS.

3. REGARDING REFTEL A'S TALKING POINT ON UNDP, SCOLAR NOTED THAT THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM WITHIN FAO STARTED SOME TWO YEARS AGO. WHILE ODM AGREES THAT UNDP SHOULD BE THE CENTRAL FUNDING SOURCE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION, SO LONG AS FAO DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH UNDP, THE UK IS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH A LIMITED FAO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM.

4. FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE'S UN DEPARTMENT DEFERRED TO ODM ON ABOVE ISSUE, STATING THAT ODM IS PRIME POLICY-MAKER ON FAO MATTERS. BREWSTER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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